

U.S. Serial No. 09/462,846

APPENDIX II

CLEAN VERSION OF THE ENTIRE SET OF PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED IN THIS COMMUNICATION

The following is a list of the Claims as they would appear following entry of this amendment.

1. (Twice Amended) A *Bacillus subtilis* having a mutation or deletion of part or all of the gene encoding cysteine protease-1 CP1, wherein said gene encodes the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, and said mutation or deletion results in the inactivation of the CP1 proteolytic activity.

6. (Thrice Amended) The *Bacillus subtilis* of Claim 1, wherein said *Bacillus subtilis* is capable of expressing a heterologous protein.

7. (Twice Amended) The *Bacillus subtilis* of Claim 6, wherein said heterologous protein is selected from the group consisting of hormones, enzymes, growth factors, and cytokines.

8. (Amended) The *Bacillus subtilis* of Claim 7 wherein said heterologous protein is an enzyme.

9. (Twice Amended) The *Bacillus subtilis* of Claim 8 wherein said enzyme is selected from the group consisting of proteases, carbohydrases, lipases, isomerases, racemases, epimerases, tautomerases, mutases, transferases, kinases and phosphatases.

13. (Five Times Amended) A method for the production of a heterologous protein in a transformed *Bacillus subtilis* host cell comprising the steps of:
(a) obtaining a *Bacillus subtilis* host cell comprising a nucleic acid encoding said heterologous protein wherein said host cell contains a mutation or deletion in the gene encoding *B. subtilis* cysteine protease 1, wherein said gene encoding cysteine protease 1 encodes the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, and said *B. subtilis* cysteine protease 1 is inactive; and

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(b) growing said *Bacillus subtilis* host cell under conditions suitable for the expression of said heterologous protein.

15. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 13 wherein said *Bacillus subtilis* host cell further comprises a mutation or deletion in at least one of the genes encoding at least one protease selected from the group consisting of apr protease, npr protease, epr protease, wpr protease and mpr protease.

20. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 13, wherein said gene encoding cysteine protease 1 comprises the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

21. The method of Claim 20, further comprising a mutation or deletion in at least one of the genes encoding at least one protease selected from the group consisting of apr protease, npr protease, epr protease, wpr protease and mpr protease.

22. A *Bacillus subtilis* cysteine protease-1 encoded by a nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:1.

23. A *Bacillus subtilis* cysteine protease-1 set forth in an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:2.